assistance in high technology areas from foreign sources is envisaged to achieve the desired objective. A final decision has, however, not been taken in this regard.

Extension of road from Khori-Wali to Nandansar in J&K

2545. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 10 km. road from Darhal bus-stand to Khori-wali, important to block militants, has been constructed by the Army in Rajouri District of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to extend this road by 15 km. from Khori-wali to Nandansar thus making the area safe from militants and providing access to many meadows and likes for the benefit of the people and tourists; and

(c) if so, the steps being proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Complaints regarding separation of widows of soldiers from their in-laws after taking deceased benefits

†2546. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints where widows of the soldiers killed in 'Operation Vijay' in Kargil and widows of the soldiers killed in other Army operations, settle down with some other persons by separating themselves from their in-laws families after taking the benefits available to them;

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) the State-wise number of such complaints received by Government wherein it has been stated that parents of martyrs have lost their financial support after losing their sons; and

(c) the concrete action taken by Government on such complaints?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There have been complaints of this nature. As a result of these complaints, the different Record Offices of the Army recommended, division of Liberalised Family Pension/*ex-gratia*, etc., between parents and widows of the deceased soldiers. Consequently, Liberalised Family Pension, and/or other benefits have been divided between parents and the widows in 23 cases, in the recent past. The State-wise number of such cases is as under:

Andhra Pradesh	—	1
Gujarat	—	1
Haryana	—	2
Himachal Pradesh	—	1
Jammu and Kashmir	—	2
Maharashtra	—	1
Orissa	—	1
Punjab	—	1
Rajasthan	—	1
Uttar Pradesh	—	6
Uttaranchal	—	2
West Bengal	—	1

In addition, 3 cases pertain to pensioners residing in Nepal.

Casualties of Army Personnel in Accidents

2547 SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 army personnel were killed in accidents between December 19, 2001 to March 15, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons for such heavy casualties; and